

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-counterfeiting method, comprising:  
creating a first data set having data in a first  
data arrangement;

5 modifying the data within said first data set to  
create a second data arrangement for said first data  
set;

10 determining whether data on an object presented  
for validation is consistent with the data of the  
first or second data arrangement for said first data  
set; and

15 if the data on said object presented for  
validation is determined to be consistent with the  
data of the first or second data arrangement for said  
first data set, accepting said object presented for  
validation, else rejecting said object presented for  
validation.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising,  
providing at least one object with said first data set.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data within  
said first data set is modified every time an object is  
provided with said first data set.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein an attribute of  
the data within said first data set is modified every time  
an object is provided with said first data set.

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted; and

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one object includes a memory, and wherein providing at least one object with said first data set comprises transferring the first data set to said memory.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one object further comprises a microprocessor, the

microprocessor modifying the data within the first data set transferred to said memory to create a plurality of data arrangements for the first data set transferred to said memory, said memory storing at least one of said plurality of data arrangements.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one object further comprises a clock, said microprocessor accessing the clock to modify the first data set transferred to said memory according to a time interval.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, providing a plurality of objects with said first data set, and wherein the data within said first data set is modified after a preset number of the plurality of objects have been provided with said first data set.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have previously been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have

previously been accepted;

15           if the data on said object presented for  
validation is determined to be consistent with the  
data of the second data arrangement for said first  
data set:

20           determining whether a preset number of  
other objects having the first data set in the  
second data arrangement have previously been  
accepted; and

25           rejecting said object presented for  
validation if it is determined that a preset  
number of other objects having the first data  
set in the second data arrangement have  
previously been accepted.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising,  
maintaining a record of the first and second data  
arrangements for said first data set.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data  
set comprises a first bitmap of image data representative  
of a first image, the first bitmap of image data including  
a first plurality of pixels, and wherein modifying the  
5   data within said first data set comprises changing at  
least one attribute of at least one of said first  
plurality of pixels.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the data on said  
object presented for validation comprises a second bitmap  
of image data representative of a second image, the second

5 bitmap of image data including a second plurality of pixels.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set comprises:

5 determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement;

10 if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else:

15 determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement; and

20 if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else rejecting said object presented for validation.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data

arrangement for said first data set comprises:

- 5           calculating a first reference sum for the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement;  
          calculating a second reference sum for said second plurality of pixels;  
          determining whether said second reference sum is  
10       consistent with said first reference sum;  
          if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with the first reference sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else:  
          calculating a third reference sum for the  
15       first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement;  
          determining whether said second reference sum is consistent with said third reference sum;  
          and  
20       if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with the third reference sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else rejecting said object presented for validation.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising, displaying said first and second images.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data arrangement has a first time stamp associated therewith, wherein said second data arrangement has a second time stamp associated therewith, wherein said data on said  
5       object presented for validation has a third time stamp

associated therewith, and wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set comprises:

10           determining whether the third time stamp is consistent with the first or second time stamp;

          if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the first time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation unless it is  
15           determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set;

          if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the second time stamp, rejecting said  
20           object presented for validation unless it is determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set; and

          if the third time stamp is not determined to be  
25           consistent with the first or second time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation.

18. An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:

          a first data set having data in a first data arrangement, the data within said first data set being modifiable to create a second data arrangement  
5           for said first data set;

          data reading apparatus, said data reading apparatus reading data on an object; and

          a data processing system operatively associated

with said data reading apparatus, the data processing  
10 system receiving the data on said object from said  
data reading apparatus, the data processing system  
determining whether the data on said object is  
consistent with the data of the first or second data  
arrangements for said first data set, said object  
15 being accepted if said data processing system  
determines that the data on said object is consistent  
with the data of the first or second data arrangement  
for said first data set, said object being rejected  
if said data processing system does not determine  
20 that the data on said object is consistent with the  
data of the first or second data arrangement for said  
first data set.

19. The anti-counterfeiting system of claim 18,  
further comprising at least one object, said at least one  
object comprising a memory, said first data set being  
transferrable to the memory of said at least one object.

20. An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:  
a data processing system for modifying data  
within a computer readable storage device having a  
first data arrangement to create a second data  
5 arrangement for said data, for determining whether  
data on an object is consistent with the data of the  
first or second data arrangement, and for accepting  
said object if the data on said object is determined  
to be consistent with the data of the first or second  
10 data arrangement, else for rejecting said object.